

Oklahoma Crop Weather



USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service
Oklahoma Field Office

cooperating with Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry

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Warm Temperatures Increase Field Work

Small grain condition and growth made gradual improvement because of recent rainfall and warm temperatures. Some wheat producers were busy applying fertilizer and applying pesticides. Row crop seedbed preparation made significant headway as farmers pushed sorghum and soybean progress ahead of the 5-year average. Many areas in northwestern Oklahoma missed the weekend rainfall and moisture is needed for sustained crop growth and development. Topsoil moisture supplies were still rated more than 50% adequate. A few reports of surplus topsoil moisture were received from the Southwest and Central districts. Subsoil moisture supplies continued to be rated more than 80% short-to-very short. Last week's generally open weather resulted in 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Because of high winds at the beginning of last week and depleted topsoil moisture, Governor Henry reinstated a ban on outdoor burning for 67 counties in Oklahoma, all except 10 counties in the southeastern area of the State.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	18	28	53	1
Last Week	16	26	58	0
Last Year	5	28	64	3

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	43	40	17	0
Last Week	43	44	13	0
Last Year	4	11	82	3

Small Grains: Small grain condition ratings continued to improve for the third straight week. Wheat that was rated in good condition advanced from 6% last week to 11% this week. Small grain growth and development was aided considerably by weekend rainfall in areas of western Oklahoma. Parts of southern Oklahoma received over 2 inches of rain. Wheat in the jointing stage of development ranged from 22% in the Panhandle to 93% in the Northeast district. Many fields were sprayed for spring weeds or topdressed with fertilizer.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending April 2, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat -					
This Week	29	33	27	11	0
Last Week	31	34	29	6	0
Last Year	1	3	26	56	14
Rye -					
This Week	19	32	44	5	0
Oats -					
This Week	52	33	15	0	0

Row Crops: Preparation for planting accelerated due to warm weather and improved topsoil moisture. Seedbed preparation advanced ahead of the 5-year average for sorghum and soybeans. Only the Panhandle and South Central districts have yet to plant corn while areas of eastern Oklahoma reached nearly halfway in corn planting. Soybean growers in areas of the Northeast and Southwest districts have already started planting.

Watermelons: Planting of watermelons has begun in areas of southern Oklahoma. Approximately 25% of the melons have been planted in the major-producing South Central district.

Pasture and Range: Grasses have shown some greenup with recent moisture and warm temperatures. Pasture condition improved slightly from the previous week. Most of the good-to-excellent condition reports have come from the eastern third of Oklahoma.

Livestock: Cattle remained rated in mostly poor to fair condition. Hay supplies were rated below average in all Agricultural Reporting Districts. Additional moisture is needed to increase stock pond levels. Marketing of cattle was running near average across the State. Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$111 per cwt. Prices for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds averaged nearly \$101.50 per cwt. Insect activity was mostly light but some moderate parasite infestations were observed in areas of southern and eastern Oklahoma.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending April 2, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	14	44	29	13	0
Pasture & Range	31	35	28	6	0

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS

Week Ending April 2, 2006

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.
Wheat -					Sorghum -				
Jointing	67	43	71	57	Seedbed Prepared	30	18	24	24
Rye -					Soybeans				
Jointing	33	30	83	34	Seedbed Prepared	38	20	29	28
Oats -					Peanuts -				
Planted	84	77	95	92	Seedbed Prepared	20	12	33	31
Jointing	15	N/A	17	18	Cotton -				
Corn -					Seedbed Prepared	40	33	51	50
Seedbed Prepared	49	36	65	56					
Planted	18	6	22	16					

Weather for Week Ending April 2, 2006: Temperatures ranged from 26 degrees at Kenton on Monday, March 27th, to 90 degrees at Antlers on Sunday, April 2nd. Precipitation averaged 0.10 inches in the Panhandle district to 0.87 inches in the East Central district. Soil temperatures averaged 46 degrees at Kenton on Monday, March 27th, to 72 degrees at Waurika on Sunday, April 2nd.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

Week Ending April 2, 2006

Districts	Temperature			This Week	Precipitation		
	High	Low	Average		March 1, 2006 to April 2, 2006		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
<i>Degrees</i>				<i>Inches</i>			
Panhandle	73	40	57	0.10	1.12	-0.63	64
West Central	75	47	61	0.43	2.28	-0.29	89
Southwest	77	51	64	0.84	2.71	0.27	111
North Central	74	45	60	0.31	2.20	-0.67	77
Central	75	50	63	0.59	2.72	-0.75	78
South Central	77	54	66	0.71	4.64	0.84	122
Northeast	74	48	62	0.62	2.82	-1.12	72
East Central	76	51	64	0.87	4.18	-0.20	96
Southeast	77	51	65	0.48	6.67	1.89	140

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